

NASA recognizes contractors with George M. Low Awards

Barrios Technology among winners of NASA's highest quality award

Houston's own Barrios Technology, Inc. was one of four NASA contractor companies to receive a 1999 George M. Low Award, the agency's highest honor for quality and technical performance and the nation's oldest award for organizational quality.

The awards were presented by NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin at the 14th annual NASA Continual Improvement and Reinvention Conference on Quality Management held in Alexandria, Va., in April.

"These companies demonstrate outstanding management and customer service that have proven profitable to NASA and the nation's industries," said Goldin.

Barrios Technology, recipient for small business product category, averaged 96 percent award fees on all its prime contracts and demonstrated outstanding schedule performance at a cost less than the maximum allowable under the contract. The company provides engineering, information systems technology and space operations training to NASA.

"Winning the NASA George M. Low Award is the highest recognition Barrios could receive for the quality and productivity achievements of all our employees," said Sandra Johnson, president of the company. "We are honored to receive the award, which recognizes not only the outstanding accomplishments of our employees but also the quality of work performed at the NASA Johnson Space Center."

Other 1999 Low Award recipients include: Kay and Associates, Edwards, CA, small-business service; Raytheon Support Services Company, Annapolis

Junction, MD, large-business service category; and Thiokol Space Operations, Brigham City, UT, for large-business product.

Also at the conference...

The Continual Improvement and Reinvention Conference is also a forum to share best practices and lessons learned from quality management initiatives. Presentations are selected from center nominations and this year's program included two speakers from JSC.

Linda Bromley, avionics test and analysis branch chief, presented a case history on the development of the Early Communication System. Positioned as a fast-track, criticality 3 system, Bromley's team had only two years, half the usual time required, to develop and deliver the S-band communication system for ISS. Methods for ensuring on-time delivery of the system as well as its spin-off benefits were the basis for her presentation.

JSC Human Resources Representative Brady Pyle was a co-presenter with Chris Carlson from KSC on Goal Performance Evaluation System. GPES is an interactive, Web-based software application developed by KSC that links employee performance plans and accomplishments to organizational strategic plans. Pyle and Carlson explained the design and development process for GPES as well as how it was deployed at both centers.

These individuals and their teams received plaques in recognition of their contributions to NASA continual improvement and reinvention efforts in 1998. ■



Sandra Johnson, president of Barrios Technology, Inc., accepts George M. Low Award from NASA Administrator Daniel Goldin.

Small Disadvantaged Business Contractor of the Year Award

Futron, Muñiz Engineering receive JSC honor

Futron Corp. and Muñiz Engineering, Inc. were recently named JSC's 1999 Small Disadvantaged Business Contractors of the Year. Randy Gish, director of the Business Management Office at JSC, presented the awards during the annual Government Procurement Connections '99 Awards and Appreciation Luncheon May 4 at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

"We are energized by this recognition," said Futron President Joseph Fuller Jr., "and we look forward to continued success from our supportive customers and dedicated employees."

Ed Muñiz, president of Muñiz Engineering, Inc., commented, "All of the credit for this award belongs to the employees. NASA recognized us because it is highly satisfied with the high quality work the people perform on a day-to-day basis. Each of them has every reason in the world to be extremely proud of their accomplishments."



Ed Muñiz, president, Muñiz Engineering, Inc.

dependability, information technology, and communications and outreach. Since its inception in 1986, the firm has designed and implemented innovative solutions for its governmental and commercial customers.

Futron employs nearly 100 engineers, analysts, economists, and computer consultants. The company is headquartered in Bethesda, MD, and has offices in Washington D.C. and Houston.

Futron is a technology management consulting firm that offers five signature services: space market forecasting, risk management, aerospace safety and

Since 1992, Futron's Houston Division has met JSC's complex information technology, risk management, and communications requirements. The company has implemented software applications that assist JSC's Space and Life Sciences organization with project and resource management. Several innovative Intranet applications are now in development that will optimize how JSC accesses and manipulates complex business and technical information.

The Houston Division provides other services to JSC including space station electronic field trips, risk management for space shuttle and space station programs, and communications and education products.

Muñiz Engineering, Inc. is an 8(a) certified small disadvantaged business currently providing technical, management and administrative services as a prime contractor to NASA and the Department of Defense and as subcontractor to several aerospace and commercial companies. The company has a unique and broad experience base in program management, engineering, system safety, information systems, training, and manned and unmanned space mission operations.

The company provides configuration management and flight experiment support to the Crew and Thermal Systems Division, and software support to the Automation, Robotics, and Simulation Division. It was recently awarded contracts to provide technical and administrative services to the Space Station Program Office and information technology support services to the Information Systems Directorate and Space Station Program Office. ■

Futron employees, below from left, Kelly Moses, Futron President Joe Fuller, JoElla Delheimer, Lorraine Holifield, Deborah Washington, Kevin Repa and David Yeung celebrate after the company was named JSC's Small Disadvantaged Business Contractor of the Year.

